

FOCUS

Missouri

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October 7, 2005

HEADLINE NEWS

DED Taps Former Fortune 500 Exec to Head New Sales Team



Kevin Stover, a former senior executive with Fortune 500 companies who also serves as a consultant to Fortune 1000 firms, has been named to the new sales management position within DED's Business and Community Services Division.

Stover, who begins his duties immediately, will oversee a Sales Team created as part of a major reorganization of the Department of Economic Development. The sales team, under the division's Promotions unit led by Mike Downing, CEcD, will find and support regional and national opportunities to create jobs, stimulate private investment, increase local revenues and partner with local communities. In addition, industry specialists will focus on specific areas that are critical to the economic growth of our state such as agriculture, life sciences, automobile manufacturing, and advanced technology. [Read more...](#)

Missouri's Economy Grows to Highest Level in Six Months



Missouri's already strong economy grew in September to its highest level in six months, according to a national index that measures key economic indicators. The Purchasing Manager Index for Missouri was 59.8, up from 58 in August and 51 in July.

An index over 50 indicates an expansionary economy for the next three to six months, while an index below 50 indicates a slowing economy over the next three to six months. The state's PMI score has now been above the important 50-mark for 44 consecutive months. Last month's PMI rate was higher than the national PMI of 59.4 but slightly below the regional average of 59.9. [Read more...](#)

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October 12-14, 2005
[Governor's Conference on Workforce Development](#)

October 22, 2005
[Make A Difference Day](#)

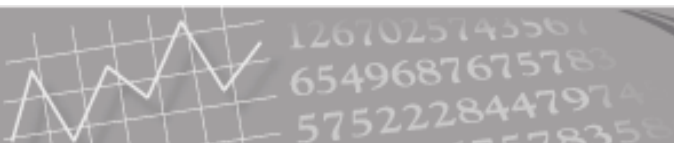
October 23-25, 2005
[2005 Missouri Community Betterment Conference](#)

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Grade Your Career



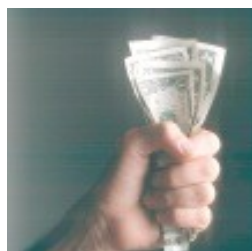
Missouri Career Grade Brochures are designed to give job seekers a quick overview of the state's top careers through 2012. Each occupation in Missouri has been graded based on its wages, growth, and openings over the next 10 years, then ranked A+ to F-. Brochures detailing statewide projections are currently available, and are coming soon for each of Missouri's 10 Workforce Investment Areas. Look for the Missouri brochures in the conference bags at the Governor's

Conference on Workforce Development from Oct. 12-14. [Read more...](#)

Missouri Personal Income Growth Outpaced National Average in Q2

Personal income in Missouri increased 1.7 percent, from \$181.41 billion to \$184.41 billion, from the first quarter of 2005 to the second quarter of 2005, according to recently released data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). This outpaced the national average of 1.5 percent. The rate of personal income growth in Missouri was more than three times that of the revised rate for the preceding quarter of 0.5 percent.

[Read more...](#)



[Dramatic Drop in Missouri Unemployment Reflected in Metro Areas, Counties](#)

[Department Says Preparedness Key to Economic Stability in Time of Crisis](#)

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FOCUS ON COMMUNITY

Missouri Cities Among 100 Best Communities for Young People

Gov. Matt Blunt extended his congratulations to Kansas City, Springfield, St. Joseph and St. Louis City this week for being recognized as four of the [100 Best Communities for Young People](#) by America's Promise-The Alliance for Youth. These cities were chosen based on their commitment to provide a healthy, safe and caring upbringing for America's youth. [Read more...](#)

[State Approves More NAP/YOP Projects](#)

FOCUS ON WORKFORCE

Register Now for Workforce Conference

There is only one week left to register for the Governor's Conference on Workforce Development. This year's conference - "Open for Business: Preparing a Competitive Workforce" - features a comprehensive program with keynote speakers and workshops detailing how to strengthen Missouri's workforce. There are already over 800 registrants for the event, which will be held Oct. 12-14 at Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach. [Register here...](#)

[New Leadership for Springfield Career](#)

FOCUS ON BUSINESS

Linked-Deposit Loan Program Restarted

State Treasurer Sarah Steelman is hoping to renew interest in a long-standing state program that allows banks to offer below-market loans to farmers and small businesses. The BIG MISSOURI program, formerly known as MO BUCKS, began taking applications last Friday. [Read more...](#)

Helmets to Hardhats for Returning Missouri Soldiers

The nationwide program Helmets to Hardhats, started in 2002, connects National Guard, Reserve and transitioning active-

This week, DED approved applications totaling \$552,140 in Youth Opportunities tax credits for three youth development projects and \$979,004 in Neighborhood Assistance Program tax credits for seven projects. These tax credits will help not-for-profits in Jefferson City, Kansas City, Maplewood, St. Charles Co., St. Louis and Warrensburg raise funds for various community betterment and youth development programs. [Read more...](#)

"Show ME the Money" Workshop

Raising funds is an essential task for every historic commercial district revitalization effort. Yet, because each town and situation is different, it is important to develop an effective strategy for sustainable funding based on local circumstances. The "Show ME the Money" workshop will introduce several state programs designed to help in your revitalization efforts and inform you how to gain better results from funding campaigns and volunteers. Hosted by DED and the Missouri Main Street Connection, this event will be held Oct. 27-28 in Branson. [Register here...](#)

Center

William B. Dowling has been appointed director of workforce development at the Missouri Career Center, effective Nov. 21. Dowling will lead efforts to provide job training and opportunities for unemployed or underemployed residents. He joins the department from Los Angeles, where his most recent position was directing the Chinatown Career Center. [Read more...](#)

Columbia Career Center Held Job Fair for Hurricane Victims

The Missouri Career Center in Columbia hosted a job fair for hurricane Katrina evacuees in September upon the request of several local service providers. Twenty-six area employers participated in the job fair, giving evacuees an opportunity to complete applications and drop off resumes. Over 40 jobseekers attended the event and were able to meet with employers to learn about temporary and permanent employment opportunities. In the two weeks following the hurricane, the local disaster recovery center served over 400 evacuees from 165 families.

duty military members with quality career training and employment opportunities within the construction industry. The program comes at an opportune time when the construction industry is facing a worker-shortage crisis. Gov. Matt Blunt said, "I am very excited about this initiative that allows us to work together as a state, across agencies, to try and get veterans in great careers." He signed a resolution implementing direct entry for Missouri candidates in August. [Read more...](#)

Health Care Insurance Plan for Missouri Employers

Associated Industries of Missouri has implemented an innovative healthcare insurance program that will provide access to high-quality, cost-effective health benefits for small businesses in Missouri. AIMCare is now available to all Missouri employers with at least two employees. It will provide worldwide coverage and prescription drug benefits through the Healthlink provider network, along with optional dental, weekly income and dependent life coverage. [Read more...](#)

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Questions or Comments?
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[Jane Holtsman](#)
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October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month



National Breast Cancer Awareness Month is dedicated to increasing awareness of the importance of early breast cancer detection. Look for pertinent information regarding this life-threatening disease in each October issue of *Missouri Focus*.

In the Show Me State, the Missouri Women's Council coordinates efforts to promote breast cancer awareness and raises funds solely for providing early detection services for uninsured or under-insured women in Missouri through donations for the Breast Cancer Awareness License Plate. Contributions for the Pink Plate help provide breast cancer services, including but not limited to screening, treatment, staging and follow-up services. [Read more...](#)

Target Plans Warehouse in Georgia

Target Corp. recently announced plans to build a 2 million-square-foot import warehouse in Savannah, Ga. The facility will employ 200 at first, but the company expects to add several hundred more jobs within the first few years. Target announced plans in January to build a 1.5 million-square-foot regional distribution center in Midway, Ga. and it currently operates a similar distribution center in Tifton, Ga. that employs about 800.

[Read more...](#)



\$31.9 Million in Incentives Keeps Farmers in Olathe, Kan.



The Olathe City Council recently approved \$31.9 million in tax incentives to persuade Farmers Insurance Group of Cos. to stay in Olathe rather than relocating to a site in either Arizona or Oklahoma. As a result, the company will build its new service center in the I-35/119th Street Tech Park, saving 800 jobs and creating another 763 jobs with an average annual

salary of \$41,280. [Read more...](#)

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HEADLINE NEWS

Pfizer Plans \$200 Million Expansion in Chesterfield



Gov. Matt Blunt announced this week that Pfizer will invest nearly \$200 million to expand its research and development facility in Chesterfield and maintain its work force of nearly 1,200 employees thanks, in large part, to the Missouri Quality Jobs Act.

Under a memorandum of understanding with the Missouri Department of Economic Development, Pfizer will receive \$500,000 in tax credits per year for five years under the retention portion of the Quality Jobs Act.

"I am very pleased that Pfizer is making this significant investment in Missouri and will continue to provide the kind of high paying, high quality jobs that help support the cutting-edge research the company already does in our state," Blunt said. "I am strongly committed to life science research and through the Missouri Quality Jobs Act we were able to strengthen our relationship with Pfizer well into the future."

[Read more...](#)

Transportation, Economic Development to Analyze Road, Bridge Impacts

The Missouri departments of Transportation and Economic Development are teaming up to determine the impact highway projects have on the state's economy, revenue and demographics. The information will be used to help the departments plan and invest funds, as well as show what type of return the state is getting on its transportation investments.

The findings will also be used to determine how transportation projects affect local areas and citizens and how transportation can be used to boost Missouri's economy.



Missouri General Revenue Collections Rose Again in September



Using income tax collections as a gauge, personal and business income in Missouri is growing at a healthy rate. Missouri's net general revenue collections increased by 7.5 percent in September, rising from \$645.7 million in September 2004 to \$694.1 million last month.

So far, 2006 fiscal year-to-date net general revenue collections compared to 2005 fiscal year-to-date collections have increased by 4.8 percent, from \$1.65 billion last year to \$1.73 billion this year. Sales and use tax has increased 1.3 percent year-to-date to \$502.2 million. Corporate income and corporate franchise tax collections

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increased 31.4 percent between August and September and recorded a 44.9 percent increase year-to-date. [Read more...](#)



Understanding Missouri's Unemployment Rate

Each month, the Department of Economic Development releases Missouri employment and unemployment information. This data is produced by the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program administered by MERIC for the state of Missouri in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor. The four components of Missouri's employment and unemployment data are labor force, employment, unemployment and the unemployment rate. [Read more...](#)



Profiling Missouri Communities: Columbia



Columbia is Missouri's 5th largest city, with a population of 89,593, and is the county seat of Boone County. State government is Boone County's largest employer. Population in Boone County is projected to increase by 26.7% by 2025, faster than the 9.2% projected state growth. [Read more...](#)



Ozark Downtown Wins HUD Award

The Missouri Department of Economic Development recently received a "Best Practice" award from HUD for their funding support of the city of Ozark's downtown revitalization project. New brick sidewalks and bright flower beds now adorn the downtown area; and century-old storefronts are now busy with new restaurants, shops and offices. As a result, 68 new jobs have been created, 16 historic buildings have been restored, and 19 new offices or retail shops are now open in the downtown area. [Read more...](#)



DWD Workshop

The Missouri Division of Workforce Development is offering a workshop Oct. 17-21 in five separate modules focusing on career exploration, networking, applications and resumes, interviewing and career advancement. Attendees will receive a workbook and a Career Guide, a professional resume, and hands-on experience with a job-matching computer system. For more information, call the Missouri Career Center in Jefferson City at (573) 526-8115.

Individual Achievement Awards



Cape Girardeau Lands Aircraft Firm

Commander Premier Aircraft Corp. will relocate its airplane manufacturing firm from Bethany, Okla., to the Cape Girardeau Regional Airport and operate out of the former Renaissance Aircraft hangar. Commander Premier also will establish its sales, parts and service center at the airport. Mitch Robinson, executive director of the Cape Area Magnet Association said the company expects to employ 45 people the first year and expand to about 100 jobs within three years and could generate an economic impact of about \$4 million annually. [Read](#)

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Enhanced Enterprise Zone Designation for Atchison County

Gov. Matt Blunt announced the approval of Atchison County's application for Enhanced Enterprise Zone status to help enhance job creation and broaden economic development throughout the county. The new zone will be comprised of nearly the entire county including the cities of Rock Port, Tarkio, Fairfax, Westboro and the village of Watson. The Atchison County Development Corp. will administer and market the program locally. [Read more...](#)

LaBelle Receives Wastewater Grant

DED awarded a \$300,000 wastewater grant to the city of LaBelle through its Community Development Block Grant Program. The city proposes to construct a duplex lift station at the southeast lagoon, install 10,400 linear feet of force water main pipe and remove sludge from the existing lagoon system. [Read more...](#)

Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder presented Individual Achievement Awards to workforce system customers from each of the state's workforce regions this week at the 23rd Annual Governor's Workforce Development Conference at Tan-Tar-A. Each award recipient was honored for their efforts to overcome personal difficulties and achieve training and employment goals with assistance from Missouri's workforce development system. [Read more...](#)

Workforce Excellence Awards

DWD Director Rod Nunn and MTEC Executive Director Rose-Marie Hopkins presented the Workforce Excellence Awards during the second day of the Governor's Workforce Development Conference. The awards recognized excellence in leadership and innovation throughout Missouri's Workforce Development System in economic development, employment and education. [Read more...](#)

[more...](#)

Branson Tops \$100 Million in New Construction

Building on the momentum of the Branson Landing project, the city of Branson has topped the \$100 million mark in new construction in just the first nine months of 2005. This is the second best construction year in the city's history. Branson is on track to break the single year's record for new construction - \$119.5 million - set in 1993. [Read more...](#)

\$16 Million Grant for Washington University's New Nanotech Center

Washington University School of Medicine received a five-year, \$16 million grant from the National Cancer Institute to set up a center using nanotechnology to diagnose and treat cancer. The Siteman Center of Cancer Nanotechnology Excellence (SCCNE) will focus on breast cancer, melanoma detection and treatment and developing general oncology applications. [Read more...](#)

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October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month



U.S. Senator Jim Talent, in coordination with the Missouri Women's Council and other dignitaries, will host an illumination ceremony this weekend in honor of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The ceremony, which will feature the illumination of the Gateway Arch in pink lights, will take place at 7:45 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15, at the landmark's site in downtown St. Louis. The Arch will only be illuminated for one night.

Major UPS Expansion for Louisville

Kentucky's largest employer, United Parcel Service, Inc., is planning a \$34.3 million Louisville expansion that could bring 424 jobs to the city. The new jobs will generate an estimated annual payroll of \$11.9 million with hourly wages from \$10.40 to \$34.58. The new UPS facility will be used to store and distribute health care items and other products. [Read more...](#)



Site Selection's New World of Super Projects



From the top highway, space, rail and airport projects to the top travel, tourism and family entertainment projects - read *Site Selection* magazine's report on global super projects, including a ranking of the top 20 nations in launching these mega-projects. [Read more...](#)

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October 21, 2005

HEADLINE NEWS

Missouri Unemployment Remains at Lowest Level in Four Years



Missouri's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for September remained at a four-year low and was 1.1 points below the rate of a year ago. The state's September unemployment rate went from 4.6 percent in August to 4.8 percent last month. Both the August and September figures are the lowest since 2001.

The not-seasonally-adjusted rate was 4.6 percent in September, little different from August's 4.5 percent rate. A year ago, September's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.7 percent while the not-seasonally-adjusted rate was 5.9 percent. Since the beginning of the year, more than 38,000 new jobs have been created in Missouri. [Read more...](#)

Show Me State is Small Business Friendly

Missouri maintained its ranking of 18th on the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council's 2005 Small Business Survival Index. The study ranks each state's policy environment for entrepreneurship by looking at how 26 major government-imposed or government-related costs impact investment, entrepreneurship and business. Across all measures, the Show Me State offers among the lowest state gas taxes (9th), electric utility costs (11th), top corporate income tax rates (12th), and state and local property taxes (12th). [Read more...](#)



Missouri Boasts Some of Nation's Best Small Businesses



Forbes Magazine recently released its list of the 200 best small companies in the United States. These companies are considered "solid and consistent hitters that have performed well when measured over the last 12 months and the past five years, and are poised for another growth spurt." Seven are located in Missouri, including Panera Bread (No. 28), Talx (29), LaBarge (38), Reliv International (43), Young Innovations (170) and ESCO Technologies (178) - all from the St. Louis area; and Jack Henry & Associates (164) in Monett. [Read more...](#)

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MERIC Wins Workforce Excellence Award

MERIC was honored with a Workforce Excellence Award for Innovation in Economic Development at the 23rd Annual Governor's Conference on Workforce Development. MERIC and the Northwest Skills Gap Planning Consortium received the award for developing a workforce gap analysis needs assessment for the Northwest Workforce Investment Board. The duo first collaborated to identify and address critical labor and skills gaps, but efforts later evolved into determining methodologies for development of career and industry grades for all Missouri workforce investment regions. [Read more...](#)



Using LED: A Closer Look at the Construction of Buildings Sector



The construction sector consists of three sub-sectors: construction of buildings, heavy and civil engineering construction and specialty trade contractors. In the second quarter of 2004 there were 150,439 jobs in the construction sector in Missouri, of which 34,671 jobs (23%) were in the construction of buildings sub-sector. The second quarter 2004 employment figure represents a 2,065-job or 6% increase over second quarter 2003 employment for construction of buildings statewide. [Read more...](#)

FOCUS ON COMMUNITY

Affordable Housing Developments in Five Rural Communities

DED approved nearly \$1 million in CDBG grants that will help several rural Missouri communities develop affordable housing units for low- to moderate-income families and seniors. The grants will help renovate senior apartments in three communities and build new single family units in two communities. [Read more...](#)

Texas County Enhanced Enterprise Zone

DED has approved Texas County's application for

FOCUS ON WORKFORCE

Federal Grant to Aid Hurricane Evacuees in Missouri

Gov. Blunt announced a \$400,000 grant from the U. S. Department of Labor to provide workforce counseling services to hurricane evacuees in Missouri. The funds will cover expenses for travel, salaries and fringe benefits for four reintegration counselors who will provide intensive career and life counseling directly to individuals displaced by the recent hurricanes. They will be based in St. Louis, Kansas City, Springfield and Cape Girardeau. [Read more...](#)

FOCUS ON BUSINESS

Hunte Corp. Celebrates Goodman Expansion

Gov. Matt Blunt attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the expansion of Hunte Corp., a fully-integrated pet systems provider located in Goodman. The company has added nearly 100 new jobs and invested in a new 100,000-square-foot-expansion, more than quadrupling the original site. The expansion will also allow Hunte to continue to educate breeders on how to raise healthy puppies.

Enterprise Rent-A-Car Expanding in Weldon

[DED Approves Bonds to Improve Southwest City Water Treatment Facility](#)

[Missouri Recognizes Top Leaders, Innovators in Economic Development, Education, Employment](#)

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Enhanced Enterprise Zone status to help enhance job creation and broaden economic development throughout the county. The new zone includes all or part of the cities of Houston, Cabool, and Licking, as well as Summersville (including some portions that lie in Shannon Co.). The zone also includes the portion of Mountain Grove that lies in Texas Co. [Read more...](#)

Two Community Services Projects will Benefit From NAP

Cardinal Ritter Senior Services in Shrewsbury will receive up to \$150,000 in NAP tax credits to raise \$300,000 in support of the nonprofit agency's independent living, job skills training and employment programs for senior citizens. The Children's Therapy Center of Pettis County was approved for up to \$250,000 in NAP tax credits that will leverage \$500,000 in donations for a new learning/recreation center for disabled adults. [Read more...](#)

Wilson Recognized for Service

At the Governor's Conference on Workforce Development last week, DWD recognized Bob Wilson for his 37 years of employment with the U.S. Department of Labor, many of those years spent as the regional US DOL liaison to Missouri. He received a certificate of appreciation and other gifts.

Southeast Region Loses Devoted Leader

On August 6, the state workforce development system lost a good friend and devoted leader when Ken Boyer passed away. Boyer devoted the last 14 years of his life to the workforce development system in the Southeast Region. A Senate resolution, signed by Sen. Jason Crowell of Cape Girardeau, was presented to Boyer's wife Jo at the Workforce Development Conference last week in honor of his dedication to the state and the communities in which he lived and worked.

Springs

St. Louis' largest privately held company has begun construction on a new 140,000-square-foot building in Weldon Springs. Enterprise Rent-a-Car plans to eventually house 800 information systems employees at the new facility, including about 500 employees working at the current Weldon Springs facility and other Enterprise campuses. [Read more...](#)

St. Louis RCGA Unveils New Marketing Campaign

The St. Louis Regional Commerce and Growth Association has launched an aggressive five-year economic development campaign. Marketing efforts to attract new investment and jobs to the 16-county area and feature the region's distinctive strengths will feature a new logo and tagline: "St. Louis: Perfectly Centered. Remarkably Connected." [Read more...](#)



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GLOBAL NEWS

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month



The third Friday in October (Oct. 21, 2005) is recognized as National Mammography Day. On this day, or anytime throughout the month, women are urged to make a mammography appointment. Early detection is the best defense for breast cancer, and regular mammogram screenings remain the most effective way to identify the disease at its earliest and most treatable stages.

Leggett & Platt Acquisitions Boost Presence in China

Carthage, Mo.-based Leggett & Platt will gain approximately \$85 million in annual revenues with the recent acquisition of five businesses. The company will acquire the assets of Ikex, Inc.; membership interests in Jarex Distribution LLC; and has purchased plants in China, giving the company three mechanism manufacturing sites in China by the end of the year. Leggett and Platt's Home Furniture & Consumer Products group also added two operations in North America: Westex International in Toronto, Canada; and Everwood Products in northern Mississippi. [Read more...](#)



Central Arkansas Attracts Health Care Call Center



Dublin, Ohio-based Cardinal Health Inc., a Fortune 20 medical and health care products supplier, announced plans to locate a new customer service center in Sherwood, Ark., which is near Little Rock. The new call center is expected to come online by January and will create 500 new jobs. The company also recently announced it would locate another call center, also creating 500 new jobs, in Radcliff, Ky. near Louisville. [Read more...](#)

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October 28, 2005

HEADLINE NEWS

T-Mobile USA Will Build Customer Service Center in Springfield

 T-Mobile USA Inc. announced this week that it plans to build its newest customer service center in Springfield and create 700 jobs in the process. The center will be the anchor tenant in the Airport Plaza development and will take its first call in the summer of 2006. The company will take advantage of the state's Enhanced Enterprise Zone Program along with incentives from the city and Greene County. [Read more...](#)

Construction Begins on Missouri's Largest Biodiesel Plant

Ground was broken this week on what will be Missouri's largest biodiesel production facility - Mid-America Biofuels LLC. Gov. Matt Blunt, U.S. Sen. Kit Bond and U.S. Rep. Kenny Hulshof attended the ceremony in Mexico. The \$28 million facility will produce about 30 million gallons of biodiesel per year and add value to local soybean producers' crops. The company is a majority farmer-owned joint venture supported by Archer Daniels Midland Co., MFA Oil Co. and Ray-Carroll Co. Grain Growers Inc. [Read more...](#)



Missouri Cities Are Hot for Entrepreneurial Growth



The National Policy Research Council teamed up with *Entrepreneur* magazine to measure the best places for entrepreneurial growth and business startups. Several Missouri cities made the magazine's "2005 Hot Cities" list under large cities: Kansas City (No. 11) and St. Louis (No. 21); and under small cities: Springfield (No. 10), Columbia (No. 43), Joplin (No. 61) and St. Joseph (No. 67). Missouri ranked 19th nationally. [Read more...](#)

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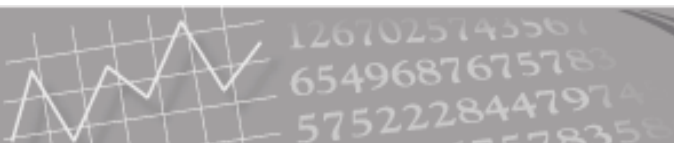
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[Missouri Unemployment Remains at Lowest Level in Four Years](#)

[Blunt Says Two Community Services](#)



New on MERIC's Website: Occupational Highlights for WIA Regions

MERIC's Long-Term Occupational Highlights brochures are now available for Workforce Investment Areas (WIA) and the St. Louis and Kansas City metropolitan areas. These brochures offer an overview of growing and declining occupations in each area of the state, as well as by education and experience levels.

[Read more...](#)



Tracking Missouri's Economy: The Current Employment Statistics Program



The Current Employment Statistics (CES) program provides valuable data for analyzing economic trends in Missouri. This federal-state cooperative program provides estimates of employment, hours, and earnings by industry for Missouri and its metropolitan areas. [Read more...](#)

FOCUS ON COMMUNITY

New Public Wastewater System in Gravois Mills

DED awarded a \$500,000 wastewater grant to the town of Gravois Mills on behalf of the Gravois Arm Sewer District of Morgan County. The state CDBG funds will help create a new public sewer system for residents and businesses and decrease the release of pollutants into the Lake of the Ozarks watershed. [Read more...](#)

State Aid for Road, Bridge Improvements in Ripley Co.

DED approved a \$125,000 CDBG grant for road and bridge improvements that will improve access to a Ripley Co. industrial park and help spur future economic growth. The grant will be combined with a Delta Regional Authority

FOCUS ON WORKFORCE

West Central Region Engages in "Command Spanish" Training

The local workforce system staff in the West Central Region is currently engaged in "Command Spanish" training through Dec. 9. Judy McQuitty, DWD West Central regional manager, says the Command Spanish program has been very effective in providing words and phrases customized to work with Spanish speaking persons in the community. The program can be customized to be job specific and relate directly to the functions of the business or the employee when working with Spanish-speaking persons. Questions about the business module or training for businesses or

FOCUS ON BUSINESS

Farmington Attracts 450-Job Call Center

ACCENT Marketing Services, LLC of Jeffersonville, Ind., has announced its intent to locate a new inbound call center in Farmington. ACCENT will bring approximately 450 new jobs to the area, including customer service and quality representatives, trainers and managers with attractive pay ranges based on experience and position. The company expects to begin operations in January 2006. [Read more...](#)

Retirees Fuel Expansion in Southwest Missouri

The influx of retirees to southwest Missouri is making it one of the fastest growing regions of the state and the nation. Unlike

Projects will Benefit From State Tax Credit Program

September 2005 Missouri Focus Issues

August 2005 Missouri Focus Issues

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grant, as well as local cash and in-kind funds and funding through the MoDOT to widen and repair a five mile stretch along Old Hwy. 142 and remove a deficient bridge. [Read more...](#)

DED Seeks Public Input on Several HUD Funded Programs

The Missouri Department of Economic Development, in conjunction with the Missouri Housing Development Commission and the departments of Health & Senior Services, Social Services and Mental Health, will conduct a series of public hearings to assess several programs administered by the state that address affordable housing, infrastructure improvements and assistance to the homeless. [See hearing schedule...](#)

HR personnel in the West Central region should be directed to dwdtraining@ded.mo.gov.

Rapid Response Team Activated for Proliance International Workers

The state's Rapid Response Team, in coordination with the Full Employment Council, was activated this week to assist workers who will be laid off from Proliance International, formerly known as Modine. The Kansas City facility, which distributed aftermarket radiator and coolant products, is scheduled to close at the end of November, affecting 27 people from management, supervisory and administrative staff, to forklift operators, warehouse and other distribution workers. [Read more...](#)

many regions where growth is driven by big new businesses, the main stimulant for southwest Missouri's expansion is retirees looking for a quieter, lower-cost, rural lifestyle. [Read more...](#)

Boone County Commissioners Adopt Tax Incentive

Boone County commissioners recently adopted a tax incentive policy to attract new companies to the area. The new Chapter 100 policy applies to businesses in the life science industry wanting to move into the county and make at least a \$15 million capital investment, along with companies already in the county wanting to spend at least \$7.5 million to expand or improve facilities. [Read more...](#)

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or email:
missourifocus@ded.mo.gov

GLOBAL NEWS

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month



The U.S. Senate approved a bill by unanimous consent on Sept. 28 to reauthorize the breast cancer research stamp for two years (through Dec. 31, 2007). The stamp currently costs 45 cents, with the additional eight cents going for research. It was put into circulation in 1998 and has raised more than \$34 million for breast cancer research. Seventy percent of the funds generated by sales of this stamp are directed to the NIH, with the remaining proceeds going to the Department of Defense.

Overland Park Uses Incentives to Retain Capital One

Capital One Financial Corp. was lured with \$5.3 million in incentives to retain the company in Overland Park, Kan. and build a five-story office building. The 750-job deal represents a 50 percent property tax abatement from the state, the city, Johnson County, the Blue Valley School District and other local taxing entities good for 10 years. [Read more...](#)

Capital One

Pilot Development Program Targets Rural Iowa



The University of Northern Iowa Regional Business Center/Small Business Development Center recently launched a pilot program targeting the needs of rural Iowa entrepreneurs and business owners. The goal of

MyEntreNet is to support the establishment and growth of small businesses and help rural Iowa improve its economies through entrepreneurship. The project was funded by a \$5 million grant through the state's Grow Iowa Values Fund. The success of the program will lead to further expansion within the state and serve as a national model of what can be accomplished through rural economic development initiatives. [Read](#)

[more...](#)